

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-02

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DRAFTED BY: AF/E: ESHIPPY: M

APPROVED BY: AF/E: WBCOOTE

EUR/BWECG WHMANGER

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O 291720Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

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KOLL REPEAT STATE 121423 ACTION KINSHASA INFO BUJUMBSRA,
DAR E SALAAM, BUKAVU AND NAIROBI 23 MAY 75:

QUOTE

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: W/W THREE KIDNAPPED AMCITS

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVIS CALLED IN ZAIRIAN AMBASSADOR
MBEKA MORNING MAY 23 TO DISCUSS GOMBE KIDNAPPING CASE AND
TO REQUEST GOZ ASSISTANCE IN CONDUCTING SEARCH IN ZAIRE
TERRITORY FOR OISSING AMCITS.

2. DAVIS SAID MATTER IS OF GRAVE CONCERN TO USG AND THAT
CONCERN ALSO GROWING IN BOTH CONGRESS AND PRESS. ANXIETIES
HEIGHTENED BY ABSENCE OF ANY COMMUNICATION TO DATE FROM
KIDNAPPERS OR OF ANY HARD EVIDENCE OF WHERE THEY MAY HAVE
GONE. DAVIS ALLUDED TO SPECULATION AMONG THOSE AT SCENE
OF KIDNAPPING THAT ABDUCTORS MAY HAVE COME FROM ZAIRE,
NOTING REPORTS THAT THEY SPOKE LINGALA AND FRENCH AND THAT
ONE WORE SOME KIND OF "ZAIRIAN INSIGNIA" ON UNIFORM.

3. DAVIS UNDERSCORED FACT THAT THERE AS YET NO CONFIRMATION
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OF EITHER ORIGIN
OF KIDNAPPERS OR WHERE THEY NOW LOCATED.
OOWEVER, IN VIEW OF UNCERTAINTY RE THEIR WHEREABOUTS, IT
WAS IMPORTANT THAT NO STONE BE LEFT UNTURNED IN EFFORT TO
LOCATE KIDNAP VICTIMS. USG THEREFORE RELIEVES AL-OUT
SEARCH EFFORT WARRANTED IN THOSE PARTS OF ZAIRE
BORDERING LAKE TANGANYIKA AND REQUESTS THAT GUZ UNDERTAKE
SUCH SEARCH, WHILE MAINTAINING CLOSE CONTACT WITH US
EMBASSY KINSHASA AND CONSULATE BUKAVU. DAVIS NOTED
THAT US EMBASSY BJJUMBURA HAD ALREADY BEEN INSTRUCTED TO
PROPOSE THAT GRB UNDERTAKE SIMILAR SEARCH.

4. MBEKA SAID HE UNDERSTOOD SITUATION AND WOULD IMMEDIATELY
CONVEY DAVIS' REQUEST TO GOZ. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT
SO FAR GOZ CONSIDERED MATTER IS RESPONSIBILITY OF
TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT IN VIEW ESTABLISHED FACT THAT CRIME
COMMITTED ON TANZANIAN TERRITORY AND LACK OF CONFIRMED
EVIDENCE THAT KIDNAPPERS WERE ZAIRIAN, CAME FROM ZAIRE
OR TOOK CAPTIVES TO ZAIRE. HE NOTED THAT AT TIME OF
CONGO REBELLION NUMBER OF REFUGEES FROM ZAIRE SETTLED IN
TANZANIA AND SPECULATED THEY MIGHT HAVE COMMITTED CRIME,
OPERATING FROM AND REMAINING IN TANZANIAN TERRITORY.

5. DAVIS MADE CLEAR HE IS NO WAY SUGGESTING THAT ZAIRE
BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR INCIDENT. HE REITERATED
HOWEVER, THAT, GIVEN PRESENT UNKNOWNNS, IT WAS IMPORTANT
THAT SEARCH OPERATIONS BE CONDUCTED IN ALL REGIONS WHERE
KIDNAPPERS AND VICTIMS COULD POSSIBLY BE LOCATED,
INCLUDING ZAIRE. INGERSOLL UNQUOTE

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